6/21/02

PATENT APPLICATION/PCT Attorney Docket No. 1217-020120

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

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Reo YAMAMOTO : Yoshihide KAMIYAMA :

PROCESS FOR PRODUCING SINTERED ALUMINUM NITRIDE FURNISHED WITH

VIA HOLE

International Application

No. PCT/JP01/04617

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International Filing Date

31 May 2001

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Priority Date Claimed

07 June 2000

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Serial No. Not Yet Assigned

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Filed Concurrently Herewith

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

February 6, 2002

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box PCT Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, please delete the section heading "DESCRIPTION".

Please replace the section heading beginning at page 1, line 6 with the

following rewritten section heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

On page 1, please delete the section heading "BACKGROUND ART".